

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-05 AID-05
TRSE-00 /084 W
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R 061415Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2092
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6606

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, SHUM, PINT, PGOV (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), AR
SUBJECT: TODMAN MEETING WITH ARGENTINE POLITICIANS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6127

1. AT FIVE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 14,
MR. TODMAN MET WITH LEADERS AND FORMER
LEADERS OF THE JUSTICIALISTA, RADICAL AND
POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTIES, AS WELL AS THREE
MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT.
LIGHT AND POWER WORKERS UNION CHIEF JUAN
TACCONE MADE AN IMPASSIONED PRESENTATION
REGARDING THE CURRENT SITUATION OF ARGENTINE
WAGE EARNERS, BUT POLITICAL LEADERS MEETING
WITH MR. TODMAN GAVE SOBER AND REFLECTIVE
COMMENTS WHICH EXPRESSED SURPRISING UNANIMITY,
IN VIEW OF THE FIERCE INTERPARTY BATTLES THAT
HAVE BEEN WAGED IN ARGENTINA'S FAIRLY RECENT PAST.

2. THERE WAS VIRTUAL UNANIMITY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN
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POLITICAL LEADERS' FEELING THAT THE TIME IS NOT RIPE
FOR ELECTIONS HERE. ALTHOUGH MORE THAN ONE SPEAKER
REJECTED THE IDEA THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT SHOULD
RULE FOR THE NEXT 12-16 YEARS, NO ONE EXPRESSED THE
IDEA OF A PARTICULAR DATE FOR ELECTIONS--EVEN SOMETHING
IN THE DISTANT FUTURE. WHAT THESE POLITICANS DID WANT
WAS LEGALITY FOR THEIR PARTIES TO OPERATE IN SOME WAY

IN POLITICS AND INCLUSION OF POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE
PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF ITS RULE AND
ALTERNATIVES FOR THE FUTURE.

3. THERE SEEMED SOME AMBIGUITY IN THE POSITION OF
THESE POLITICAL LEADERS WITH REGARD TO THE US ROLE IN
SPEAKING OUT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA.
SEVERAL SPEAKERS AFFIRMED THE NECESSITY OF OUR
SPEAKING OUT AND, IN SOME RATHER DISTANT WAY AFFIRMED
THAT THESE DECLARATIONS WOULD HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT UPON
ARGENTINA'S LEADERS. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THEY
MADE CLEAR THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO
APPEAR TO BE INTERVENING IN ARGENTINE AFFAIRS. US
PRESSURE IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, FOR
EXAMPLE, WOULD NOT PRODUCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT
THE US DESIRES. US INTERFERENCE WITH LOANS TO
ARGENTINA IN THE IFI'S WOULD ONLY HAMPER NEEDED
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. MEANINGFUL CHANGES
IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE WOULD HAVE TO
SPRING FROM ARGENTINE INITIATIVE.
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Disposition History: n/a
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